

Appln. No.: 10/655,360  
Amendment Dated: January 3, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of: October 6, 2006

MAT-8459US

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 3, 11, 22, and 23. These sheets replace the original sheets.

Attachment

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Applicants' disclosure is directed to a cloth washer. The cloth washer includes a selector means, a special operating program setting means and a control means. The selector means permits a user to select a basic operating program. Each operating program is preprogrammed with specifications such as washing time, number of spin cycles and spin-dry time. The special operating program setting means permits a user to independently set some of the specifications of each of the basic programs. Then, the special operating program setting means establishes a special operating program based on the new specifications. The control means controls the washer according to the special operating program.

Claims 1-7, 10-16 and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gardner (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0115682 A1). Claims 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Gardner in view of Jo (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0087351 A1). Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Gardner in view of Cho (U.S. Patent No. 6,983,628 B2). Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Gardner in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0040505 A1). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Gardner is directed to a washing machine and dryer that are controllable together. Using the Gardner machines, a user selects washing programs such as "delicate" or "cold water." Then, in response the basic washing programs the user selected, the machine selects a basic drying program corresponding to the basic washing program. If the user disagrees with the drying program the machine selected, the user may select a different drying program. Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...basic operating programs that are programmed individually with a plurality of specifications including a washing time, a number of rinse cycles and a spin-dry time...

...special operating program setting means for establishing a special operating program, wherein the special operating program is established by selecting one of the plurality of basic operating programs and independently setting at least two of the specifications... (emphasis added.)

This means that basic operating programs (such as regular operating program or short program) are preprogrammed with specifications such as, for example, an amount of time the washer is to wash clothes, a number of cycles over which the washer is to rinse clothes and an amount of time the washer is to spin-dry the clothes. However, a new program may be established by changing some of the preprogrammed specifications, such as by changing the washing time and the spin-drying time. This feature is found in the originally filed application at page 16, line 6 through page 17, line 5. No new matter has been added.

As indicated in paragraphs [0027]-[0029], Gardner provides basic operating programs such as "type of laundry being washed", "wash temperature," "rinse temperature" and "more dry." These basic operating programs are preprogrammed with specifications. For example, "more dry" mode "results in a greater drying time period." Thus, the basic operating program "more dry" is preprogrammed with the specification of a drying time. As indicated in paragraph [0032], after a user selects a basic operating program for the washer, the machine selects a basic operating program for the dryer corresponding the basic operating program selected for the washer. Then, the user may change the basic operating program that the machine selected for the dryer.

This is different because Applicants' specifications are independently settable. Whereas Gardner's machine allows the user to change an operating program, Applicants' machine allows the user to independently set the specifications that are preprogrammed into the basic operating programs. For example, while Gardner's machine allows the user to switch operating programs from "more dry" to "dry," Applicants' machine, for example, allows the user to change the specifications of a basic dry program from dry time of 5 minutes to dry time of 10 minutes.

It is because Applicants' include the feature of ...basic operating programs that are programmed individually with a plurality of specifications including a washing time, a number of rinse cycles and a spin-dry time...special operating program setting means for establishing a special operating program, wherein the special operating program is established by selecting one of the plurality of basic operating programs and independently setting at least two of the specifications..., that the following advantages are achieved. Using Applicants' machine, a

user may create a custom program for carrying out a washer or dryer cycle. Moreover, the user may refer to the specifications preprogrammed into the basic programs in order to create the custom program.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 11, 20 and 21, while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to claim 1. Accordingly, claims 11, 20 and 21 are also patentable over the art for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2-7 and 9-10 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Claims 12-16 and 17-19 include all the features of claim 11 from which they depend. Thus, claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-16 and 17-19 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Claim 8 has been cancelled.

The drawings were amended in accordance with Examiner's recommendation.

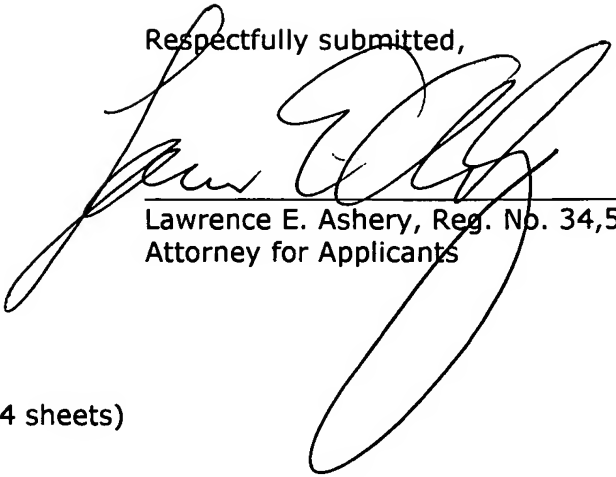
Amendments were made to the specification as required in paragraph 5 of the Official Action.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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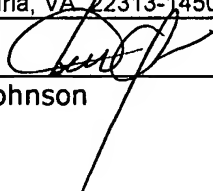
Attachments: Figures 3, 11, 22, 23 (4 sheets)

Dated: January 3, 2007

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Beth Johnson

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